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## HOMES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

By William Tindall.

Read before the Society, April 3, 1899.

After promising Mr. W. B. Bryan about ten days ago that I would read a few notes on the subject of the various buildings occupied by the municipal governments in the District, I found that I had undertaken a task to which nothing like full justice could be done in the short time at my disposal for preparation. But even this desultory effort to garner in this not altogether uninteresting field will not be wasted, and may lead to its more thorough gleaning by others.

First, I wish to make my grateful acknowledgments to Mr. D. O'C. Callaghan and Mr. James Croggon for material assistance in my search for some of the facts herein related.

The purpose of this paper is only to follow those branches of the government which ordinarily are clustered around the municipal executive.

The homes of the municipal government at the National Capital have been of a somewhat peripatetic nature, and the whole family has never yet been housed under the same roof.

The first Mayor, Robert Brent, appears to have resided up to 1807 "on the north side of south G street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, west." I have been unable to ascertain where he resided during the subsequent five years of his mayoralty, but he built a residence at the southeast corner of twelfth and Maryland avenue southwest, where he died. This allusion to his residence is submitted under the presumption that it was also his office, as I find no account of the renting

or use of a building for general municipal business at that time.

Daniel Rapine, his immediate successor, resided at the "corner of south B street and New Jersey avenue."

The subsequent Mayors were not so careful to publish their places of residence in the public documents, so that I find no further record of even the presumptive location of their offices until the Mayor's office was established in the west wing of the City Hall.

Section six of the first act of incorporation of the city of Washington, approved May 3, 1802, provides that the City Councils shall hold their sessions in the City Hall, or, until such building is erected, at such place as the Mayor may provide for that purpose.

If the first Councils had as much difficulty in finding quarters as I have had in ascertaining where they found them, that dignified body must have had very little time for legislation during its first year.

The first record I encountered on the subject is that they met in the old Capitol, at the southeast corner of First and A streets northeast, on Monday, June 14, 1802. How long they continued to meet there is yet a mystery to me.

On May 4, 1803, they paid William Lovell \$15.06 for rent of room. Mr. Lovell was the lessee of ground on the north side of Pennsylvania avenue just east of Fifteenth street, owned by James Hoban, one of the architects of the Capitol, upon which a row of brick buildings was erected, in which, I presume, this room was located. Their sojourn here must have been brief, for on December 29, 1804, they paid the Washington Building Company \$110 "for one year's house rent, ending June 12, 1804," and on June 13, 1805, \$110 to the same company for rent until June 11, 1805. This building was situated upon lot 4, square 322, on the north

side of Pennsylvania avenue, somewhat west of the middle of the square between Eleventh and Twelfth streets northwest. (Liber H, folios 321 and 401, Land Records for D. C.)

The fence seems at that early date to have cut some figure in politics, for on July 17, 1806, the Councils paid \$15 for fixing theirs. They also show that they knew something about junketing, for it is recorded that they paid \$3.50 on June 30, 1803, for "dinner and club for the judges of the election."

From the building of the Washington Building Company they moved to Masonic Hall. The accounts show that on June 25, 1805, the Councils paid \$100 rent to Alexander McCormick for use of this hall, which was situated on the north twenty-three feet of lot 1, square 323, on the west side of Eleventh street near C street northwest, where the new City Post Office is located. This hall was subsequently used as the rooms of the Washington City Library Company. The last semi-annual receipt for rent of this hall for the Councils is for \$75, and is dated December 21, 1820.

On the 10th day of June, 1822, the Councils held their first meeting in the City Hall, on Judiciary Square.

I feel satisfied that between 1820 and the time the Councils first met in the City Hall they had quarters on Capitol Hill, but I have not yet secured definite information on the subject. A friend told me that Mr. E. J. Middleton, of Capitol Hill, informed him some years ago that he attended a meeting of the Councils on Capitol Hill, and he was old enough to have attended the meeting in 1802-3.

#### CITY HALL.

In the fall of 1814 the greatness of the Federal Capital had so far impressed upon its inhabitants the no-

tion that the municipal dignity required accommodations for the transaction of the city's business more nearly commensurate with the importance of the city, as the political center of a mighty and growing nation, that they resolved to build a city hall.

By the act of the corporation of Washington, approved February 23, 1815, it was decided to raise by lottery \$40,000 for the purpose of "building, establishing and endowing two public school houses on the Lancastrian system, for building a penitentiary and building a town house or city hall." From time to time similar prefatory action was taken by the Councils until April 1, 1820, when the matter came to a head by an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for plans and specifications for a city hall, to cost \$100,000.

The first plan of George Hatfield was so magnificent that the Councils were compelled in the interest of economy to reject it. Mr. Hatfield subsequently modified and reduced his plans until they became practicable, and on July 14, 1820, the corporation authorized the advertisement for proposals and the making of a contract for the erection of so much of the building according to Hatfield's plans as the commissioners in charge of the work might deem expedient, directing that the corner stone be laid on, or before, the 24th day of the ensuing August.

These measures resulted in the erection of the comely Ionic structure on Judiciary Square, at the intersection of D street, Four-and-a-half street, Louisiana and Indiana avenues, now occupied by the District Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, and the offices of the Recorder of Deeds, the Register of Wills and of the Surveyor. The building cost the city \$148,451.29, about \$105,000 of which was re-imbursed by Congress in various ways. Seventy-five thousand dollars of this

was paid under the circumstances hereinafter stated for the total surrender of the interest of the District of Columbia in the building.

The city seems to have been compelled to receive boarders to enable it to bear the heavy expense it incurred in its struggle to keep up appearances, for we find it, on October 5, 1822, and again on March 27, 1823, seeking to get occupants for the unfinished rooms in the building, and eventually succeeding in inducing the courts to take up their quarters there.

#### ABANDONMENT OF THE CITY HALL.

This joint occupancy continued until 1871, when the local government of the entire District of Columbia was consolidated by the Act of Congress of February 21, 1871, into one municipal corporation, known as the District of Columbia. The Mayor and City Council continued to occupy the building until the 1st of June of that year, but the Governor and Board of Public Works thought it better to occupy rented buildings. The City Hall was, therefore, never used by the authorities of the new municipality, except the Surveyor, who remained, and who still has his office there, probably in consideration of the fact that his duties are more of a *quasi* judicial than an engineering character, as they relate almost entirely to determining private rights in real estate and bear a relation to the courts somewhat analogous to those of the Recorder of Deeds and the Register of Wills.

#### EFFORTS FOR A DISTRICT MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

The Governor, in his first message to the Legislative Assembly, in June, 1871, discussed at length the inad-

equacy of the City Hall for the accommodation of both the municipal authorities and the courts, and recommended that the interests of the District in the City Hall be disposed of and the proceeds used for the commencement of the erection of a new municipal building on one of the reservations. On January 2, 1873, the Governor and Board of Public Works memorialized Congress, representing that \$150,000 would be a just and reasonable sum to appropriate as the value of the District's interest in said building, and asked for an appropriation of that amount. They submitted a statement of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the District, made under date of February 10, 1872, showing the need of the court for all the room in the building, and finally succeeded in inducing Congress to pass the following proviso in the deficiency appropriation act of March 3, 1873:

"For the purchase by the United States of the interest of the District of Columbia in the present City Hall building in Washington, now used solely for Government purposes, such sum as may be determined by three impartial appraisers, to be selected by the Secretary of the Interior, not exceeding \$75,000, the same to be applied by said District only for the erection of a suitable building for the District offices; and the Governor and Board of Public Works are authorized, if they deem it advisable for that purpose, to make arrangements to secure sufficient land fronting on Pennsylvania and Louisiana avenues, between Seventh and Ninth streets; provided that the Government of the United States shall not be liable for any expenditure for said land, or for the purchase money therefor, or for the buildings to be erected thereon, and no land or the use thereof is hereby granted for the purpose of erecting any building thereon for such purpose."

Pursuant to the authority given by this provision, an agreement was made on March 18, 1873, between the Washington Market Company and the Board of Public Works by which the company was to transfer, as a site for a suitable building for District offices, all its right, title and interest in the following portion of the reservation at the intersection of Seventh street and Pennsylvania avenue:

“Beginning at the southwest corner of Seventh street and Pennsylvania avenue, thence westerly along the southern side of Pennsylvania avenue to its intersection with the southerly side of Louisiana avenue; thence westerly along the southerly side of Louisiana avenue to the east side of Ninth street; thence along the east line of Ninth street eighty-six feet; thence easterly on a line parallel with the aforesaid southerly line of Louisiana avenue to a point eighty-six feet south of said intersection of the southerly lines of Pennsylvania and Louisiana avenues, and thence on a line parallel with the aforesaid southerly side of Pennsylvania avenue to the westerly line of Seventh street at a point eighty-six feet from the corner began at; thence northerly along the west line of Seventh street to the corner began at. Together with the right to said District of Columbia to use in common with said party of the first part, as a passageway and court-yard, all the land between the lot above described and a line drawn westerly from Seventh to Ninth street ten feet north of the north walls of the present Seventh and Ninth street buildings of said party of the first part; together with all the improvements, ways, easements, rights, privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining, and all the remainders, reversions, rents, issues, and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim



and demand, either at law or in equity, or otherwise however, of the said party of the first part, of, in and to, or out of the said piece or parcel of ground and premises."

On the same day the Company executed a conveyance of its interest in said property to the District of Columbia, which was duly recorded on the 22d of the same month. In consideration of this concession the District authorities stipulated in said agreement to reduce the franchise rental for the relief of the poor, due annually from said market company, from \$20,000 to \$7,500. It had previously been reduced by an act of the Legislative Assembly, approved August 23, 1871, from \$25,000 to \$20,000, for no reason that I have ever been able to learn, unless one may be inferred from the following resolution of the Legislative Assembly, especially the adroit suggestion in the last ten words:

"Be it resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the District of Columbia, That the Governor be authorized and required to act as one of the commissioners of the Washington Market Company, under the resolution of Congress, approved December twenty, eighteen hundred and seventy; and that he be requested to procure such alterations in the plan of the buildings to be erected by said company as shall transfer the proposed hall from Ninth street wing to the main building on Pennsylvania avenue, and also to secure a reduction from twenty-five thousand dollars to twenty thousand dollars of the annual rental required to be paid by said company, and which is now assessed by the company upon the stall-holders."

The \$75,000 to which I have heretofore referred as having been appropriated to be applied in erecting a new City Hall building appears to have been paid to the treasurer of the Board of Public Works on the 27th

day of August, 1873, in two installments, one of \$25,000, and the other of \$50,000.

Five thousand dollars of this money was kept intact for the purposes for which it was appropriated, except such of it as was used to make a slight excavation for the new building on the site referred to. The remainder appears to have been used by the Board of Public Works in the prosecution of municipal street improvements, and the specific object of its appropriation protected, as the treasurer of the Board of Public Works testified before the Congressional committee of investigation, by the deposit in the bank, under the orders of said Board, of \$80,000 in sewer certificates (worth about fifty cents on the dollar). After the Board of Public Works was abolished these sewer certificates were invalidated by the act of Congress of June 20, 1874, which abolished the territorial form of government, and were subsequently canceled, leaving the District with nothing but a site with a small excavation in it to show for the \$75,000 it had received to commence the erection of a City Hall, and for reducing the rent from \$25,000 to \$7,500.

One of the strongest inducements to abandon the City Hall was the desire to escape from what Governor Cooke styled the possibility of being associated in reputation with the City Hall ring. He thought with the poet that "you may break, you may shatter the vase as you will, but the scent of the 'rascals' will hang round it still," and that the best way to avoid the danger of infection was to take no chances.

I never was aware of any well-founded reason for the cry against the last two mayoralty *regimes*. I was the clerk to the Mayor during a part of Mayor Bowen's term, and saw nothing in his public acts that was not to his credit, notwithstanding his unfortunate facility in making personal enemies.

There was a great similarity between **Mr. Bowen** and Governor A. R. Shepherd, in their breadth of view, their energy, and their implacability. But Shepherd had the grace of tact which was almost wholly lacking in Mr. Bowen. Governor Shepherd hated his enemies as heartily as Mr. Bowen did his, but he had infinitely more discretion and never went around hunting for trouble. He only snapped at those who bit at his heels.

Mr. Bowen introduced the first bituminous pavement, which was laid by Mr. Scharf in front of the Arlington Hotel, and remained for a number of years as a very creditable piece of work. During his term a coal-tar pavement for sidewalks was authorized by an ordinance of Councils to be laid by Smith & Burlew. He was the projector and promoter of the first law to provide for the systematic parking of our streets and avenues, and his efforts were mainly instrumental in effecting the enactment of the parking law of Congress, approved April 6, 1870, and the corporation ordinances on the subject, as follows:

“An Act authorizing the Corporation of the City of Washington to set apart portions of streets and avenues as parks for trees and walks.

“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the corporation of the city of Washington be, and hereby is, authorized to set apart from time to time, as parks, to be adorned with shade-trees, walks, and enclosed with curb-stones, not exceeding one-half the width of any and all avenues and streets in the said city of Washington, leaving a roadway of not less than thirty-five feet in width in the center of said avenues and streets, or two such roadways on each side of the park in the center of the same; and said corporation is hereby authorized and empowered to

levy and collect special taxes in such equal and just manner as said corporation may determine, in particular wards, parts, or sections of the city, or upon all property bordering upon avenues, streets and alleys, which shall have been so improved. That nothing herein contained shall be held to apply to Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Indiana avenues, nor to Four-and-a-half street, between the City Hall and Pennsylvania avenue: And provided further, That nothing in this act shall authorize the occupancy of any portion of the public streets or avenues for private purposes."

"Approved April 6, 1870."

In pursuance of the authority granted by this act the corporation of Washington passed the following ordinances, which were the first systematic attempt on the part of the corporation to use parking to reduce the width of the carriageway:

"An Act to improve and ornament K street north, between Twelfth and Sixteenth streets west.

"Be it enacted by the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the city of Washington, That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested to cause K street north, between Twelfth and Sixteenth streets west, to be improved and ornamented as follows, viz: The curbstones and gutters on both sides of said street to be taken up and placed twenty-five feet nearer the center of said street, the intervening spaces between the present sidewalks and the curbstones, as herein authorized to be set, to be graded and converted into grass plots, the same to be ornamented by a row of trees upon each side, and with such shrubbery as may from time to time be deemed advisable by the Mayor and the Superintendent of Streets, Carriage-ways, etc.; also, a paved walk to be constructed in

front of each lot from the sidewalk to the curbstone; the work to be contracted for in the manner provided by law for the paying of carriageways, etc., and executed under the superintendence of the said Superintendent of Carriageways, Foot Pavements, etc., and the Commissioner of the Ward, and two assistant commissioners to be appointed by the Mayor; and to defray the expense of said improvement a special tax equal to the cost thereof is hereby imposed and levied on all lots or parts of lots bordering on the line of the improvement; the said tax to be assessed and collected in the manner provided by the act of October 12, 1865.

“Approved April 18, 1870.”

“That the act entitled ‘An act to improve and ornament K street north, between Twelfth and Sixteenth streets west,’ approved April 18, 1870, be so amended as to authorize the parking of all of said street, excepting thirty-five feet in the center for a carriageway.

“Approved April 25, 1870.”

The foregoing legislation on the subject of parking grew out of a conversation between the Mayor and me substantially as follows: He had bought a residence on the north side of K street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets northwest, and was much annoyed by the dust from the street. I had some years before noticed in Jacksonville, Ill., a street on which there was a space of parking between the houses and the sidewalk, and mentioned the fact to the Mayor, who at first had some predilection in favor of two roadways, but in the preparation of the law provided for either a two or a one roadway system.

Although the Board of Public Works neither introduced nor laid the first successful bituminous and wood pavements for roadways and sidewalks, nor projected nor constructed the first system of street parking, there

is no room for doubt that the comprehensive system of improvements inaugurated and conducted to a successful condition by that Board, under the energetic and sagacious direction of its Vice President, Alexander R. Shepherd, practically illustrated the advantages of our street plan and laid at rest the Capital-moving projects which had haunted this community since 1802.

Mr. Bowen also projected and carried on a vast amount of other public improvements, and was remorselessly ridiculed because some of the ward bosses, about election time, employed great gangs of voters in cutting grass out of the crevices of the cobble stone gutters with razors and table knives at \$2 per day.

Another reason for his political downfall was the unpreparedness of the public mind at the time for negro suffrage, by which he obtained his election, and the lack of tact with which the recently enfranchised voter often met some of the problems he had to face in his new condition.

In pursuance of the policy of the Governor and the Board of Public Works to abandon the City Hall, three sets of apartments were rented and fitted for the accommodation of the several branches of the new government.

The Governor's and the Secretary's offices were established during the month of April, 1871, in the building still in existence at the northwest corner of Seventeenth street and Pennsylvania avenue northwest. The Secretary's office occupied the entire ground floor, and the Governor's offices the second story.

The Legislative Assembly held its sessions in a building on the north side of Pennsylvania avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets, popularly known as Metzerott Hall, where No. 925 Pennsylvania avenue is now located, and occupied by Mr. Edward F. Droop & Son as a music store.

The Board of Public Works and its Vice President, Treasurer, and other officials were quartered in the building on the west side of Four-and-a-half street, between Pennsylvania avenue and C street northwest, called the Morrison Building, from the name of its owner, a then noted bookseller on the north side of Pennsylvania avenue, near Four-and-a-half street. Between \$50,000 and \$60,000 were expended in fitting these buildings for the Board's occupancy.

#### BOARD OF HEALTH.

The Board of Health during the existence of the old corporation of the City of Washington held its meetings in the City Hall Building.

The Board of Health of the District of Columbia, which succeeded the Washington Board of Health, on February 21, 1871, rented the building now numbered 1223 F street northwest, the second from the corner, on the north side. On September 1, 1878, the Health Officer who succeeded the Board of Health under the act of June 11, 1878, moved to the building belonging to Dr. Cornelius Boyle, which was located next south of the Morrison Building aforesaid.

On the 1st day of July, 1885, the Health Office was moved from Four-and-a-half street to the building on the north side of D street west, next to the corner of Fifth street north, numbered 503. During the month of May, 1895, this office was moved to the building of the Washington Title Insurance Company, No. 464 Louisiana avenue northwest, south side, where it is at present.

#### POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

The first provision I find for police buildings was an appropriation of \$600 under the act of March 30, 1813,

to build a watch house in each of the four wards. Additional appropriations were subsequently made for other buildings of the kind and their repair. These buildings were made of planks and logs, and about 12 feet square, with bars across the upper part of the doorway for light and ventilation.

The first headquarters of the Police Department were in the scale house at the Center Market, on the south side of Pennsylvania avenue, between Seventh and Ninth streets northwest, to which an additional story had been erected in 1838 (or 1839), and which was afterward occupied by the Auxiliary Guard, established by the act of Congress of August 23, 1842, "To establish an auxiliary watch for the protection of public and private property in the city of Washington." The occasion for the establishment of this guard was the throwing of a stone at President Tyler by a drunken printer named Judge, whose offense was condoned at the request of the President. It is said he was appointed a member of the Auxiliary Guard and took great pride in claiming that if it had not been for him the other fellows on the guard would not have had their positions.

We next find the Police Headquarters located in the City Hall under the re-organization of the police force provided for in the act of January 7, 1858. They were removed from the City Hall about 1860 to the Central Guard House on the south side of Louisiana avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets northwest, which had been erected under the act of August 19, 1859, and other ordinances.

From the Central Guard House they were moved to the building on the east side of Eleventh street northwest, next to the northeast corner of Pennsylvania avenue (in the house subsequently used as a hotel by Mr.



Wm. Dickson), when the Metropolitan Police Department was first organized in 1861, under Major and Superintendent W. B. Webb.

During 1862 they were transferred to the four-story, mastic-front Brown building on the west side of Tenth street, between D and E streets northwest, now numbered 416, which belonged to Mr. Joseph F. Brown.

During December, 1866, the headquarters were moved to the old residence of the late Mayor Richard Wallach, which still stands on the south side of Louisiana avenue, where that avenue intersects D street, and is numbered 456.

During 1869 the headquarters were removed to the houses of Mrs. Swan, which were the buildings east of the old Canterbury Hall, on the south side of Louisiana avenue, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth streets northwest, now numbered 482 and 486.

During January, 1879, the headquarters were removed to the northwest corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Four-and-a-half street, in the building owned by Mrs. Emily Beale. The headquarters were in this building when President James A. Garfield was shot in the depot of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company, at the southwest corner of Sixth and B streets northwest, July 2, 1881.

The Police Headquarters were transferred from the buildings at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Four-and-a-half street July 1, 1883, to the building on the northwest corner of Fifth and D streets northwest, and during the month of April, 1895, were again moved, and to the building of the Washington Title Insurance Company, No. 464 Louisiana avenue northwest.

In one case the transfer was made to a building owned by the most prominent member of the Police

Board; in another to a house belonging to the family of the head of that Board; and in another to a house owned by the mother-in-law of one of the prominent police officials.

#### POLICE COURT.

The Police Court of the District of Columbia, which succeeded to the jurisdiction of the police magistrates, was established by act of Congress of June 17, 1870, and soon thereafter organized by the appointment of Judge William B. Snell, of Maine, who held his court in the building numbered 466 C street northwest, located on the south side of said street, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth streets, about where the middle portion of the new building of Havenner & Company stands.

On June 4, 1880, Congress made an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars "for purchase of police court building," with which the Unitarian Church building at the northeast corner of Sixth and D streets northwest was bought. After a general refitting it was occupied by the officers of that court. In this old building it is said Daniel Webster attended divine worship when he wasn't worshipping the Constitution or himself.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The headquarters of the Fire Department of the city of Washington, as far back as I can ascertain, were located in the basement of the west wing of the City Hall until the building was abandoned by the municipal executive offices in 1871. These headquarters were in the Morrison Building on Four-and-a-half street from 1871 until July, 1885, when they were moved to premises 503 D street northwest. They were moved

with the Police Headquarters to the Smith Building on the west side of First street, between B and C streets northwest, on the 28th day of June, 1887, and during May, 1895, were transferred to the present municipal building, No. 464 Louisiana avenue northwest.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The headquarters of the Superintendent of Public Schools has been in the Franklin School Building, on the southeast corner of Thirteenth and K streets northwest, since that building was completed and dedicated for school uses in 1868. It is still a model structure so far as material and workmanship are concerned.

During Mayor Bowen's administration the State Department, which was then quartered in the building at the southeast corner of Fourteenth and S streets, made some very favorable offers to the city government to sell them the Franklin School House for a State Department building, but as this building was at that time one of the most pretentious specimens of school architecture in the country, and deemed of especial value to the public school system of Washington, on account of the influence which respectable appearance always carries with it, Mr. J. Ormond Wilson and Senator James W. Patterson, of New Hampshire, successfully opposed its disposition by the city authorities; but the Mayor was willing to part with it and apply the money to the erection of a number of smaller school buildings.

#### HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

##### Temporary Board of Commissioners.

The first meeting and a few of the subsequent meetings of the first temporary Board of Commissioners

appointed under the act of June 20, 1874, were held in the H street parlor of the Arlington Hotel. The first meeting was held on the 3d of July, 1874. The next afternoon will be remembered by all who were in the city at that time as the date of one of the most terrific tornadoes that have occurred in Washington within the memory of its present inhabitants.

The Commissioners met several times in the Governor's office at Seventeenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, but soon moved to the Morrison Building on Four-and-a-half street, and surrendered the building at Seventeenth and Pennsylvania avenue and the Metzerott Hall.

The latter building is inseparably associated with the epoch in our municipal history known as the "Feather Duster Affair."

The distinguished citizens who then constituted the House of Delegates, consisting of twenty-two members elected from that number of districts, had passed but one bill during the session then in progress. This bill was one making appropriations for their own salaries. Some of them received, in the same single-minded spirit in which they had provided for their compensation, the information that the act of June 20, 1874, which ended their official existence, had passed, and forthwith began to appropriate to their own use the desks, chairs, and other bric-a-brac their fancy led them to select as souvenirs of their recent honorable estate.

The law which terminated the career of the Legislative Assembly also legislated the offices of the Governor and the Secretary of the District out of existence, so that at the time there was no Chief Executive of the District Government. I was the Secretary to the Governor, and at the time in my office at Seventeenth

street and Pennsylvania avenue, and to me as the only one having any semblance of executive authority, the old colored watchman at the Legislative Assembly Hall came almost breathless with the exclamation, "Doctor! they's a-stealin' the Legislative Hall!" After I learned the full meaning of his errand, I told him to hurry to the Superintendent of Police and tell him to have the depredations stopped.

He started with my message, but somehow the marauders got wind of his mission, and when the police reached the scene of distribution, the conscience-stricken relic-hunters had returned or were returning their plunder, and the affair had assumed more of the appearance of a donation-party than the pilfering-bee which was in full blast when the faithful messenger left for help. One of those who was found *flagrante delicto* was a noted local politician who had slipped down his trousers' leg one of the official feather dusters which, like Byron's feelings, he could not "all conceal;" and he not only had to return it, but became the butt of the newspaper jesters of the time, and the occasion of the derisive *nom-de-plume* which will ever distinguish the last phase of the suffrage times which many of our fellow-citizens recall with such deep regret.

But while some of the delegates thus "indulged in sin while conscience slept," others among them proved worthy of their trust. This body numbered among its members some of the best citizens of the District, who would have been a credit to any public or private position.

It was said that one of the worthies who was elected to this legislature received the votes of a number of men who were not on the registration list; that a few minutes before the closing of the polls in one of the precincts in his district he learned from one of the

trusty heelers he had put in as a superintendent of election, that about fifty persons had not voted. Nearly all of these were Democrats who would not vote with the colored brothers. He got a sufficient number of colored men to match the most of these vacancies and voted them under the names of the fastidious Democrats. In some cases the Democrats called to vote, but were astonished when informed by the Superintendent of Elections that they had already voted, and in a few instances tardy Republicans were served in the same manner.

Legislators with such antecedents, constituents and traits could hardly fail to act as some of those did. Like Hamlet, or a sum in addition, they couldn't work out any other result with the figures in their problem.

The executive offices of the District Government occupied the Morrison Building, on Four-and-a-half street, until June 28, 1887, when they were moved to the building on First street, between B and C streets northwest. This building was owned by our respected townsman, Mr. T. W. Smith, and was a four-story brick lumber warehouse, which Mr. Smith, at the instance of the Commissioners, had fitted up for the accommodation of the District offices. This, too, while a great improvement in every respect upon the one from which the offices were removed, was soon outgrown. During the Commissioners' occupancy of this building it was used as an object lesson in the efforts which were then made to induce Congress to provide a municipal building worthy of the municipality.

#### GEORGETOWN.

The first record I find of a Mayor's office and a meeting place for the Councils of Georgetown locates them in the Town Hall, now occupied by Engine Company,

No. 5, on the south side of M or Bridge street, between Thirty-second and Potomac streets, where they remained until the new post office building was erected on Thirty-first street, between M and N streets.

The only police headquarters in Georgetown was the station house, which was located on High street, near the bank of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

#### LEVY COURT.

The Levy Court, which was abolished in 1871, met for a great many years prior to its dissolution in the large front room over the National Metropolitan Bank, on Fifteenth street, between F and G streets.

#### THE CLUB HOUSE.

The list of executive headquarters of the District Government would not be complete without some reference to the great center of influence during the *regime* of the Board of Public Works, which was located in the building on the north side of New York avenue, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets northwest, afterward occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association, and in recent years twice injured by fire. Here was where many of the giants of those days were wont to assemble, and here were woven the webs in which many Congressional flies were caught; here terrapin stew and other alimentary substances and fluids had free course with good companionship for the furtherance of the projects of the Board of Public Works, and the physical redemption of the National Capital.

#### DOG POUND.

I have been in doubt whether the Dog Pound falls within the limits of this paper, but if any one cares to know where it is and has been since it was established

by the Board of Health in 1871, it may be found at the intersection of Twenty-third street west and New York avenue, and Samuel Einstein has controlled its doings during all those years, as Poundmaster.

### MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

The demand for a municipal building is no longer a matter of sentiment. Although the District of Columbia has had to its credit for several years past a sum sufficient to have provided such a building as the conditions demand, the Commissioners have been unable to prevail upon Congress to make the necessary appropriation even for its commencement, but Congress until the past year was largely hampered by what President Cleveland had termed "a condition and not a theory." That condition was the threatened deficiency in the national revenues, and the poor District had to contribute to the national relief for this purpose; \$983,921.38 of the surplus of the general revenues of the District were thus ruthlessly applied to the cancellation of a debt of the Water Department which was payable under act of July 15, 1882, in twenty-five annual installments out of the receipts from water rents. Our suffrage friends will know what use to make of this instance of paternalism.

This action of Congress was a three-fold wrong to the District.

First. It enforced the payment in three annual installments of a debt which was payable under the terms of its creation in twelve annual installments.

Second. It directed its payment entirely out of the general revenues of the District, notwithstanding it was incurred for the special benefit of the Water Department, and appropriately made payable by the



terms of the law creating the debt, out of the receipts from water rents.

Third. Its use in this way was a violation of the provision in the organic act which prescribes that Congress will appropriate out of the United States Treasury a sum equal to that appropriated out of the revenues of the District, and not only deprived the general fund of \$983,921.38—

Act of August 7, 1894.....	\$300,000 00
Act of March 2, 1895.....	300,000 00
Act of June 11, 1896.....	300,000 00
Act of March 3, 1897.....	83,921 38
	<hr/>
	983,921 38

—but of a similar amount out of the United States Treasury, which it was under a sacred obligation to contribute for the general expenses of the District.

The demands for the District Building were again sacrificed at the last session of Congress to what seemed to be a greater popular demand for the extension of streets, and more than a million and a half was appropriated exclusively out of the surplus revenue and future receipts from private sources for the extension of suburban streets.